



# The Herald

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THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1907.

## THE LAST WORD

Parliament will assemble for the transaction of public business on Thursday next, and the result of its deliberations with regard to Western railway construction will be awaited with intense interest by the farming community.

After many years of weary waiting, are now almost in sight of the land of promise. It is sincerely to be hoped that the future will not be lost sight of in the pursuit of the ignorant and impudent statements which have appeared on the subject in many Western newspapers.

The second rate press of Ontario, which hopes to strike a sympathetic chord by an appeal for so-called "common sense" to save the pocket of the Ontario taxpayer, describe that province as the "milk and honey" of the Dominion, which provides the capital for every public work, wherever constructed.

Not of this description, but of boundless ignorance, of course loses sight of when applied to a province like British Columbia, which pays vastly more into the Federal Treasury than she receives in return, or to the North West Territories, which are a constant drain upon the treasury.

# THE ARID PUBLIC LANDS

Sometimes a brief mention was made in these columns of a paper bearing the above title, read in December last before the American Society of Irrigation Engineers, by Professor Ellwood Meade, Engineer of Wyoming.

The paper deals with existing conditions in the arid portion of the United States in a particularly able manner, and although many of the features which evoke strong criticism and condemnation from Professor Meade do not prevail in our Territories, there are other points referred to which are well deserving of careful consideration.

At the hands of those having the future destiny of Southern Alberta and other arid portions of the Territories largely in their control. First among these is the question of land laws.

Those who have given the matter any consideration do not doubt realize that the present home-ownership of the Dominion Lands Act are unsuited to the conditions existing in the arid and grazing portions of the Territories.

# THE ARID PUBLIC LANDS

Under the heading of Grazing Land, Professor Meade deals fully with the question which is rapidly becoming a vital one in Southern Alberta, and are long past experience that the whole plains portion of the Territories. Here is in part what he has to say on this subject.

The limits of irrigation are not yet fixed and public control of a land system should be retained until further experience is had as to their proper ultimate disposal. Their preservation and use, however, requires that there should be some fixed tenure in their possession which will make it to individual interest to preserve and improve them.

Under present conditions, large tracts of land too large to be individually owned, to obtain water, are of little service. There are also large additional areas where scarcity of water does much to limit the beneficial use from their use.

Another question which is ably discussed in the above mentioned paper is that relative to "Range Lands," and the remarks under this head are so pointedly applicable to the conditions existing in Southern Alberta that we cannot do better than quote the paragraph relating thereto in full.

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